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**TURKMENISTAN**

## SUCCESS STORY

# Farmers Learn to Grow Larger Hogs

**USAID helps Turkmen swine farmers improve their businesses**



William Kunzman (left) with a USAID specialist. Photo: USAID

*USAID's Farmer to Farmer program has brought nearly 300 volunteers and assisted 65 organizations in Turkmenistan to improve their operations and revenues since 1994.*

William Kunzman used to farm on a 600-acre cattle farm in Iowa. However, over the past 27 years, he has been using his knowledge and experience to help other farmers around the world. As a consultant for USAID-funded Farmer-to-Farmer program, Kunzman has worked in 21 countries guiding farmers in the development of their businesses. Most recently, he has been working with swine farmers in Mary and Dashoguz provinces in Turkmenistan. "I offer what I think will work best for them and I adjust my recommendations to the specific abilities and resources available to each of the farmers," says Kunzman.

After discussing with each farmer his livestock operations, Kunzman made suggestions that would help them increase the size of their hogs, decrease the time to bring the hogs to market, and prevent piglets' mortality. "Basic farming practices are universal. I explain that an improved feed may be more expensive, but it is also more nutritious and will help the hogs gain weight faster," says Kunzman. He offered them ideas for improving ventilation, health care practices and feed rationing and discussed building a new swine reproduction facility. By replacing liquid diets and reorganizing the way hogs are fed, the farmers are able to enhance their revenues. Remodeling the sow reproduction facility helps to protect the newborn litter from being squashed by the adult pigs and reduce piglet mortality.

Since 1994, USAID's Farmer to Farmer program brought 288 volunteers and assisted 65 local organizations, including agribusiness enterprises (49%), NGOs (4%), and other agribusiness support organizations (47%). It's nice to be part of the effort to improve the livelihoods of Turkmenistan's farmers," says one of the volunteers William Kunzman.